

Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel



As Founder and President of the American Institute of Polish Culture in Miami, it was my honor to award ITC Chair, Commissioner Natacha Seijas with the Institute's Gold Medal Award. The Institute bestows the Gold

Medal of Honor each year to individuals who have made significant contributions towards promoting Polish business and culture. Commissioner Seijas actively engages in building cultural and economic linkages with Poland. In 2008, she led a business development mission to Poland, and as a result of that mission, ITC coordinated a high-level trade mission to Miami led by Marcin Korolec, Undersecretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Economy. It is my distinct pleasure to work with ITC, and I look forward to our continued association as we further strengthen the ties between Poland and Miami-Dade County.

The American Institute of Polish Culture Awards ITC Chair with its Prestigious Gold Medal Award



Anders Gyllenhaal



Commissioner Natacha Seijas



Dr. Horacio Aguirre

The American Institute of Polish Culture (AIPC) awarded ITC Chair, Commissioner Natacha Seijas with its prestigious Gold Medal award, the highest distinction given annually by the Institute, on January 30th, 2010 during the 38th Annual International Polonaise Ball at the Surf Club in Miami Beach. The Institute chose Commissioner Seijas to receive this honor because of her many contributions towards promoting Polish business and supporting the music of Fryderyk Chopin. In past years, many prominent personalities have received the AIPC's Gold Medal award including former Polish President Lech Walesa. Among other honorable recipients, Dr. Horacio Aguirre, founder and editor of Diario Las Americas and Anders Gyllenhaal, Executive Director of The Miami Herald received the Lech Walesa Media Award.

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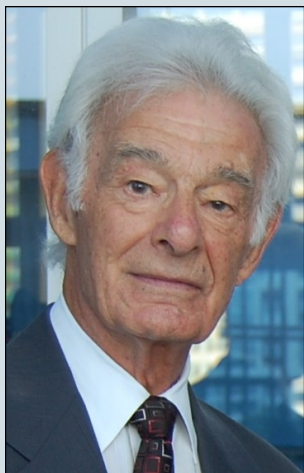


Commissioner Natacha Seijas with President Lech Walesa (center) and ITC Executive Director Tony Ojeda

MESSAGE FROM

Walter Loy**Chair, Sister Cities and Consular Corps Committee**

It is a privilege to serve on the ITC Board of Directors and I am truly honored that ITC Chair, Commissioner Natacha Seijas has appointed me Chair of the Sister Cities and Consular Corps Committee. This committee is charged with managing the Miami-Dade County Sister Cities Program within the ITC, which promotes citizen diplomacy, international cultural understanding, and trade and commerce by receiving foreign missions, by leading missions to partner communities abroad, and by developing local projects that foster interest in world affairs.



In addition, this committee is responsible for promoting a closer working relationship between Miami-Dade County and the Consular Corps, and functions as its liaison. It is my conviction that the Consular Corps is a vital component through which we can establish serious dialogue and nurture meaningful relations. I am thrilled to be at the forefront of this exciting approach and look forward to working closely with my colleagues in the committee to develop bold and creative ideas that contribute towards the goals and objectives of promoting cultural and international understanding.

Sister Cities Awards Scholarship

On January 21st, 2010 at the County Commission Chambers, ITC Executive Director, Tony Ojeda together with Miami-Dade College North Campus, Dean of Students, Malou Harrison presented a \$1500 scholarship on behalf of the Miami-Dade Sister Cities program to Larissa Williams-Leconte; a student at Miami-Dade College studying to become a social worker. The citizen volunteers of the Miami-Dade County Sister Cities program raised the funds for the scholarship through various programmatic activities. The Scholarship Committee selected candidates from a field of applicants and interviewed them considering academic accomplishment, financial need, a commitment to community service, and enrollment at Miami Dade College.

L to R: Miami-Dade College North Campus, Dean of Students, Malou Harrison, Larissa Williams-Leconte, and ITC Executive Director, Tony Ojeda

**ITC Board Welcomes New Member**

The ITC Board of Directors, proudly welcome newly appointed Board member Richard de Villers representing The Port of Miami. Mr. de Villers will serve on the ITC Executive Committee and the Strategic Management and Planning Committee.

Desmond Alufohai Receives Recognition

On February 9th, 2010, ITC Executive Director, Tony Ojeda presented Desmond Alufohai with a pin of the Miami-Dade County seal commemorating his 5 years of service to the County. As Senior Trade Development Specialist, Mr. Alufohai is an integral part the agency's trade promotion activities and development. His experience and leadership are valued assets. We congratulate him on his achievements!



ITC Contributes to County Wide Haiti Relief Effort



At the Board of County Commissioners' emergency meeting on Thursday, January 14th, ITC Executive Director, Tony Djeda announced that after consultation with ITC Chair and other members of the ITC Executive Committee, ITC would make a \$1,000 donation on behalf of Sister Cities to the Haiti relief fund from the Sister Cities Trust Account. Under the leadership of Commissioner Audrey Edmonson, the County is working with Food for the Poor to get relief supplies to the island through its existing distribution sites in Haiti. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's (MDFR) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) team, Florida Task Force 1 (FL-TF1), was activated and deployed to Haiti on Thursday, January 14th at the request of the federal government. Together with other agencies from the U.S. and around the world, the County's task force rescued eleven earthquake victims trapped under massive amounts of rubble including a number of small children. ITC applauds the courage and professionalism shown by the brave men and women of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue who travelled to Haiti as part of the County's relief effort. The County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is coordinating and supporting the County's donation and relief efforts, supporting the Federal Government's repatriation mission, and preparing and reviewing contingencies plans for events, such as a mass migration. ITC encourages everyone to contribute to international aid organizations such as Food for the Poor, the United Way, Catholic Charities, and the American Red Cross, or any organization of your choice providing relief in Haiti. The Sister Cities and Consular Corps Ad Hoc Committee has also pledged additional financial assistance in the amount of \$1,000 to specifically benefit Petit Goave, Haiti, which is one of Miami-Dade's Sister Cities and which also suffered severe devastation from the earthquake.



Miami-Dade FL-TF1 rescue members Michelle Steele and Dr. Danny Whu evaluate a 2-yr-old girl found in a void space of a collapsed home



MDFR, French search team, and Congressman Kendrick Meek celebrate after removing a 3-year-old girl from tons of debris and reuniting her with her family



Left: Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Vice-Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz greet rescuers at Miami-Dade's base camp at the U.S. Embassy in Haiti



Right: MDR Lt. Mike Cuminale raises the Florida, Miami-Dade and FL-TF-1 flag

AIPC Awards ITC Chair with its Prestigious Gold Medal Award

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Several distinguished guests from the U.S. and other parts of the world attended the event including former Polish President Lech Walesa, King Kigeli V of Rwanda, Dom Duarte Duke of Braganca, and Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie of Ethiopia, in addition to various Consular Corps members and world renowned scientists and artists. The event also included the presentation of three "Amicus Poloniae" awards, as well as performances by the Polish American Folk Dance Company of New York and a Polonaise piece by 11 year old pianist Daniel Szefer. "I was deeply touched and truly honored to receive an award that has been presented to so many distinguished personalities from all over the world such as Lech Walesa whom I greatly admire for his work in the pursuit of democracy, his struggle for human rights, and his fight against communist oppression," Commissioner Seijas said.



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Founder and President of the AIPC presents Commissioner Natacha Seijas with the Gold Medal award



Lady Blanka with (L to R) King Kigeli V of Rwanda, Dom Duarte Duke of Braganca, and Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie of Ethiopia



Left: Commissioner Natacha Seijas with former Polish President Lech Walesa

ITC Executive Director, Tony Ojeda with former Polish President Lech Walesa



Polish American Folk Dance Company of New York performs for the audience

ITC to Assist U.S. Commercial Service with its Conference in Miami

ITC Executive Director, Tony Djeda met with Eduardo Torres, Director U.S. Export Assistant Center Miami and Keith Silver, Commercial Officer U.S. Commercial Service on February 10th, 2010. Mr. Torres requested ITC's assistance in hosting the U.S. Commercial Service Officers and Diplomats from Western, Central, and Eastern Europe Conference in Miami on May 6th, 2010. Mr. Djeda pledged the ITC's full support noting




the assistance U.S. Commercial Service Officers have provided the ITC during its outbound missions. ITC will promote the conference to targeted local businesses, assist with facility selection, and customize delegates' briefings, among other activities. In preparation for this event, ITC staff also met with Mary L. Trupo, Senior Advisor, Director, Office of Public Affairs, from the Washington based International Trade Administration (ITA), on February 18th, 2010, to discuss promotion strategies, involvement of the local business community, and future collaboration.

Commissioner Seijas Welcomes Trade Minister of Panama

 ITC Chair, Commissioner Natacha Seijas welcomed a Panamanian delegation led by Roberto Henriquez, Minister of Trade, at a breakfast reception hosted by the Latin Chamber of Commerce of the U.S. (CAMACOL) on February 11th, 2010 at the Riviera Country Club in Coral Gables. Minister Henriquez discussed the goals of the new Panamanian government, as well as the status and his optimism regarding the completion of the pending free-trade agreement. As part of the new administration's initiatives, Panama will establish an export trade promotion agency to further advance their trade goals. Commissioner Seijas expressed her support of the trade agreement and stressed the importance of strengthening political, cultural, and economic ties between Panama and Miami-Dade, particularly in light of the Panama Canal expansion scheduled for completion in 2014. ITC also played a key role in coordinating several meetings for the delegation during this important visit to Miami.



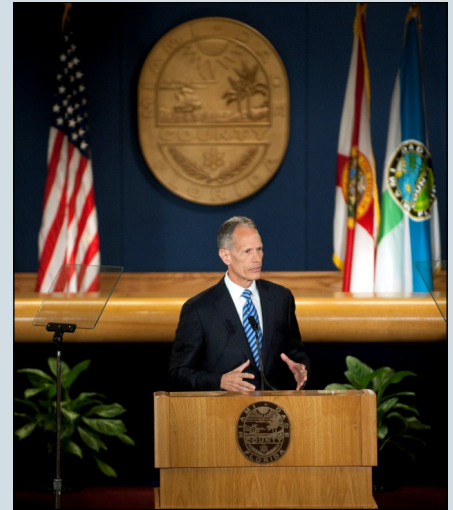
ITC Strengthens Trade Ties with Costa Rica

 ITC helped coordinate an inbound mission from Costa Rica in conjunction with the Costa Rican Trade Office from February 18th-19th, 2010. Alvaro Piedra, International Manager for PROCOMER (Costa Rica's Foreign Trade Corporation) led the mission to South Florida to evaluate the possibility of establishing a Costa Rican goods and services distribution center in Miami-Dade. ITC assisted with the mission agenda which included a tour of the Port of Miami and Miami International Airport, as well as a meeting with The Beacon Council. ITC staff briefed the delegation about Miami-Dade trade with Costa Rica and its strategic location and superior infrastructure as a distribution center. The Miami Customs District is the number one U.S. entry port for all Costa Rican goods. ITC will also help promote PROCOMER's *Costa Rica Investment World* event on April 14th & 15th, 2010 in San Jose, Costa Rica, through the ITC database and website.



State of the County

The Miami-Dade County 2010 State of the County address on February 24th, 2010 got underway with a performance by the Miami Symphony Orchestra and the U.S. National Anthem performed by a 12 year old Doral student. Mayor Carlos Alvarez began his State of the County address by pointing out that tourism figures have held steady and that 2010 has started on a positive note with the hosting of the Super Bowl. Mayor Alvarez stressed that although last year was one of the most fiscally challenging years in the County's history, and that this year will likely be even more difficult, the County is moving forward with its efforts to build up the community by investing in infrastructure improvements and projects that support thousands of jobs and position the County to emerge from the current economic downturn better and stronger. Mayor Alvarez highlighted the ongoing improvements being made at Miami International Airport, the Port of Miami tunnel project, and the construction of the new Marlins ballpark which he indicated is over 20% complete and 60% of the workforce resides in Miami-Dade. The County's priority is to hold critical services together, promote activities that advance economic recovery and growth, and continue investing in what's important. View the State of the County Address and report at: www.miamidade.gov/soc-2010



Latin America 2010: Economic, Business, and Trade Forecast

ITC was a sponsor of the University of Miami's Center for Hemispheric Policy, *Latin America 2010: Economic, Business, and Trade Forecast* conference, at the JW Marriott Hotel Miami on February 5th, 2010. The conference consisted of three panels whose topics ranged from the global economic outlook and the impact for Latin America, to economic scenarios for Latin America in 2010, and political risk in the region. Manuel Sanchez, Deputy Governor, Banco de Mexico was the featured speaker. Mr. Sanchez discussed the effects of the global economic crisis on Mexico, and indicated that the sharp fall in Mexican exports, particularly exports to the U.S. was to blame for the harsh impact on the Mexican economy. Miami's #1 trading partner Brazil stood out as the country with the most optimistic outlook in the region with an expected GDP growth of 5 ½ % in 2010. According to Jeffrey Schott, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics, the pending free trade agreements with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea were held up due to domestic politics, and may also be revived for political reasons as the Obama administration focuses on jobs. President Obama's plan to double U.S. exports over the next five years includes passing these trade agreements as part of his broader job initiative.



Consular News



Canada



On January 11th, 2010 ITC staff met with the new Consul General of

Canada in Miami, the Honorable Louise L. Leger who began her post in September 2009. Consul General Leger joined the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce as a trade commissioner in 1981. Before assuming her new post in Miami she was Director General of the Trade Commissioner Service, Client Services Bureau.



According to a report prepared by the Consulate, Miami is favored as North America's trade and financial gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean. The report indicates that there are various opportunities for Canadians to enhance their exports to the region by utilizing Miami's comprehensive international trade infrastructure.

ITC also provided the Quebec-Florida Chamber of Commerce with 288 trade leads for its inbound mission from Quebec that visited Florida from February 23rd-26th, 2010.

ITC congratulates Alexandre Bilodeau; the first Canadian ever to win an Olympic gold medal in men's mogul on home soil.

United Kingdom



The Honorable Kevin McGurgan began his appointment as Her Majesty's Consul General of The United Kingdom in Miami in December 2009. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1971, he joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1990. Consul General McGurgan comes to Miami from southern Afghanistan, where he spent 2008/9 as Deputy Head of the NATO Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Helmand province. The Consulate General provides a range of services across Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It offers advice and practical assistance to British companies looking to enter the U.S. market, as well as U.S. companies looking to invest or establish operations in the UK.



TRADEUPDATES

World Trade

WorldCity's Global Outlook 2010

South Florida business leaders peered into their crystal ball at WorldCity's Global Outlook 2010 on January 29th, 2010 at Miami's Hotel Sofitel to forecast how the Global economy and the local economy will fair in 2010. Frank Nero, President of the Beacon Council, Jerry Haar, Associate Dean for International Programs at Florida International University, John Price, Managing Director of Business Intelligence at Kroll Associates, and Claudio Muruzabal, CEO of Neoris Consulting shared their views of the current state of our economy and bright spots going forward into the future. Global growth is predicted to increase 3% in 2010 with the Asian economy coming out of the recession first followed by the U.S., Japan, and Europe. The Caribbean, Central America and Mexico will become important for nearshoring as U.S. companies source service activities to lower-wage countries that are relatively close in distance. U.S. Dollars that have been parked in treasury bills and emerging markets are expected to come back to the U.S. but in a more controlled manner. There is concern that third quarter of 2010 could bring higher interest rates, and some even fear a "double dip recession" fueled by more housing foreclosures due to a lack of jobs. Private sector growth will only be 1%-2% in the foreseeable future due to the stagnant credit markets, but companies that export can take advantage of the weak dollar in global markets.

Barbados Council for the Disabled Visits Miami-Dade County

Miami-Dade County's Department of Human Services (DHS) hosted an incoming delegation from the Barbados Council for the Disabled led by Barbados Senator Kerryann Ifill on February 19th, 2010. Philip H. St. Hill, Deputy Consul General in Miami organized the visit which included a briefing and tour of Miami-Dade County's Disability Services and Independent Living (DSAIL) facility. DHS made a presentation regarding various components and partnerships of the program including how DSAIL promotes independent living for persons with disabilities. In addition, the delegation enjoyed a tour of the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

ITC Welcomes Consul General of Malaysia



ITC Assistant Director Jimmy Nares and ITC Senior Trade Specialist Desmond Alufohai met with the Honorable Arham Abdul Rahman, Consul of Investment and Consul General of Malaysia (Investment Promotion Section) in New York, on January 21st, 2010 during his visit to Miami. The Consul General's trip came as a direct result of ITC's trade mission to Malaysia in 2005. The Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) located in Miami and the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) organized the mission. Also as a result of ITC's mission to Malaysia in 2005, the MATRADE office was established in Miami-Dade in 2006 due to Miami's geographical location, its logistical platform as an international trade hub, and its position as the "Gateway to the Americas." While in Miami, Consul General Rahman attended the Internet Telephony Conference and Expo (ITEXPO), as well as met with South Florida's business leaders and economic development agencies. In 2008, Malaysia ranked 44th as Miami's trade partner with a total trade value of more than \$260 million.



ITC Facilitates Trade with Poland



On February 22nd, 2010, ITC staff welcomed an inbound delegation led by Tadeusz Swiatkowski, Regional Director of the Polish Chamber of Commerce; the third Polish delegation to visit South Florida since ITC led a trade mission to Poland in 2008. A Polish mineral water production company was part of the delegation, and ITC provided 86 trade leads from its database to help identify Miami-Dade businesses that match the commercial interests of the visiting firm.



EVENTS

March 19th-21st

Miami International Agriculture & Cattle Show

Miami-Dade County
Kelvin Moreno 305-222-2141
miacs@miamidade.gov

March 25th

ITC Import/Export Workshop Series: Importing into the United States for International Trade Professionals

ITC/Peter Quinter
Desmond Alufohai 305-375-3526
alufoha@miamidade.gov

April 7th

8th Annual Beacon Council Awards

The Beacon Council
Holly Wiedman 305-579-1351
hwiedman@beaconcouncil.com

April 14th-15th

Costa Rica Investment World Procomer

Jorge Zamora 305-629-3581
jzamora@procomer.com
www.crinvestmentworld.com

April 25th-May 1st

Outbound Mission: Spain The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Juan Gonzalez 305-350-7700
jgonzalez@miamichamber.com

May 26th-29th

31st Hemispheric Congress of the Latin Chamber of Commerce of the United States & Industry Trade Show

CAMACOL
Betty Gradera 305-642-3870 x220
www.camacol.org

DID YOU KNOW...

Miami is the Wreckreational Diving Capital of the World, with over 50 diveable wreck sites—such as ships, oil platforms, army tanks, and the Spirit of Miami Boeing 727 jet, sunken to provide artificial reefs for marine life.

Source: Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau



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For a complete listing of events: www.miamidade.gov/itc/sf_activity_calendar.asp